

teaching, together with written answers to queries proposed on different parts of the course—and that he found this to be productive of the greatest good. He concluded by the remark that the mind progresses like the shadow on the dial, or like the slow but steady progress of the year—not like Jonah's gourd, which grew and perished in a night.

Dr. WILLIS stated, that in entering on his labours he had proceeded with the studies of the young men, in that part of the system in which they had been going on with his predecessor, Mr. McCorkle, last Session, and Mr. Rebb, of Hamilton, who had kindly assisted until his arrival. He stated that he had traversed over a large portion of the system of Theology, and found such enthusiasm on the part of all the students, that the courses intended for juniors and seniors severally had been attended by all; that for a few weeks past he had given prelections in Logic and Rhetoric, illustrating the former by its application to controverted topics in Theology.

Mr. RINTOUL stated, that in teaching the Hebrew he had, as in former Sessions, taught it with the vowel points; and briefly illustrated some of the advantages of a thorough knowledge of the language with this appendage. He stated that the junior class had been unsurpassed by any former class, of the same standing, for their attention to the minutiae of the language, and that the senior class had gone over some of the most difficult portions of the Old Testament, with readings in Chaldee and Syriac. He also stated that in the department of Biblical Criticism, Hermeneutics had been the principal subject of the prelections and lectures of this Session.

Some well-executed Paradigms of the verb in Hebrew and Syriac were handed round the meeting.

The Rev. Mr. ROSS, of Hamilton, whose services had been alluded to, in assisting in the Theological department before the arrival of Dr. Willis, made a few remarks, to the effect, that a blessed prospect was held out to the Church in what he had that day seen—that there existed the greater need of rearing a native ministry, seeing that there was so little prospect of getting any assistance from abroad. He had occasion from his late travels in the country to know that deep interest was awakened on behalf of Knox's College: that the students who had gone forth from time to time had given specimens, which showed the great efficiency of the institution: that he was sorry that delegates had not been present from every congregation to witness the important and interesting exercises of the day. He considered also the College as a bond of union to the Church, whose common work it is to raise up a succession of ministers to labour therein. He rejoiced that Dr. Willis, who was so celebrated for his sound Theology and spirituality of mind, had undertaken the superintendence of their studies, for in this the Church had a guaranty that not mere vague speculations would be attended to, but the gospel in all its fulness would be taught.

The students being invited to give some account of their missionary labours, Mr. Ross, on their behalf, stated that they had formed a Missionary Society, which meets monthly, and at which meeting an essay was read on some subject connected with missionary operations: that in Toronto seventeen

prayer-meetings were held weekly by the students*, and 600 tracts distributed once a fortnight: that ten preaching stations were regularly, and seven partially supplied every Sabbath, besides the General Hospital: and though these labours necessarily occupied much time, still the students found themselves benefitted thereby. They had more strongly impressed upon them the great value of time; they saw more the need of every proper preparation for the great work of the ministry, and especially they learned the close connection that existed between these exercises and the salvation of souls.

Dr. WILLIS, in closing the exercises of the day, made an animated and effective speech, of which we can give but a brief outline. He commenced by stating the difficulties under which he had engaged in the duties of the Session; the sympathy of his colleagues, and the hospitality of Toronto. He next highly commended the attention, ability, and piety of the students under his care, remarking that they were fully equal to those of the same standing in the Old Country,—a proof that God has made all nations of one blood, and that the gifts of the Spirit are dispersed with no reference to clime or soil. He especially lauded the missionary zeal of the students, and said that he felt his interest aroused more and more in this land, in this country, in the Church and College, and would be most happy to advocate their claims upon the Free Church on his arrival in Scotland. He next showed that it was necessary in the present day to keep up with the general march of intelligence which was pervading every class. That this was an age in which it would not do to stand back or be contented with a moderate share of education or common-place acquirements—the tide of error running strong must be opposed—merchants, and many others, found it necessary to equip themselves for grappling with and commenting on the great leading questions which are now agitating the world—and it would not do for Divines to be behind. They must be prepared to counteract prejudices—to defend the common version of the scriptures and Protestantism itself. He hoped that Calvinism would ere long be established in those lands whose governments appear to be renouncing their testimony for the truth. He should like to see the day when the students would recur to Continental Theology—when Calvin would be read with as much ease as an English or Greek Testament: (he said Greek Testament, because he knew that all the senior students were familiar with it.) He identified Calvinism with Protestant doctrines and civil and religious freedom, which always flourished best in those countries where the truth of God was most contended for. Why is it (said he) that these are now utterly extirpated in Switzerland, once the land of the truth? It is because Calvinism has been abandoned—for though some form of it may be obtained, the real truth has been lost sight of. Calvinism more than Lutheranism has ever been the friend of freedom. Man is never in his proper position until he understands his relation to his God. It is where the first table of the law is most recognized that the second will be best respected. In proportion as

* It will be interesting to know that prayer-meetings are conducted within the College amongst the students, in three different languages, viz., English, Gaelic, and French.

man submits himself to the will of the creature does he cease to be truly free. The assertions of the selfish philosophy of Hobbes have ever been the greatest tyrants. "He alone is free whom the truth makes free." Therefore it was, he (Dr. W.) wished to see Calvinism grow amongst us, and the students to become preachers of the truth, and vindicators of truth and liberty.

After singing a few verses of a Psalm, and offering up thanksgiving, the meeting was closed with the blessing by the Chairman.

In the evening a soiree was given by Dr. Willis, to the other Professors and their families, the Students, and many friends of the College in the city. With refreshments in abundance, the evening was spent in varied exercises, fitted alike to improve and edify. It was not an unfitting termination to a Session of close study of six months duration. Professors, Ministers, Trustees of Knox's Church, and some of the students themselves, in various ways, contributed to the interest, and we trust we may say in the best sense, the profit, of the evening. Some soul-stirring anthems, amongst which Bishop Heber's Missionary Hymn had an appropriate place, were well sung by a choir of the students.

In the course of the evening, a handsome gold watch was presented to Mrs. Gale, by Samuel Spreull, Esq., in name of a few friends and the boarders in the Academy, in testimony of their sense of the benefit conferred by that lady on the Academy and College, in presiding over the Boarding Institution.

Dr. Telfer having kindly attended the students since the formation of the establishment without charge, was presented with a testimonial of their gratitude,—a handsome Family Bible, and a copy of Cowper's Poems.

The meeting broke up at a seasonable hour.

Dr. Willis has since taken his departure from Toronto, to sail with the packet of the 3rd May. We trust that a Gracious Providence will watch over him and restore him to the prayers of colleagues, students, and the many others who appreciate his mission to Canada and Knox's College, and see the agency of God in that mission.—We believe he purposes (God willing) to return, with Mrs. Willis, about the month of August.

LIST OF PRIZES AWARDED IN KNOX'S COLLEGE FOR SESSION 1847—1848.

JUNIOR LATIN CLASSES.

1. Mr. William McKenzie.
2. Mr. Duncan McDiarmid, Carlton Place, and Mr. Lachlan McMillan, Inverness, (C. B.) } equal.

SENIOR LATIN CLASS.

1. Mr. John Alexander, Quebec.
2. Mr. Robert Scott, Perth.

JUNIOR GREEK CLASS.

1. Mr. John Smith, Chinguacousy.
2. Mr. Andrew Tomie, Toronto.

SENIOR GREEK CLASS.

1. Mr. George Wardrope, Flamboro' (C. W.)
2. Mr. George Jamieson, Toronto.
3. Mr. William McKay, Tecumseth, (Dr. Willis's Prize.)

MENTAL PHILOSOPHY.

1. Mr. Robert Scott, Perth.
2. Mr. William Troup, St. Thomas.

GENERAL HISTORY.

1. Mr. William McLaren, Tarbolton.
2. Mr. John Murray, Toronto Township.